



County of San Diego

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

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DIRECTOR

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Community Epidemiology
Emergency & Disaster Medical Services
HIV/STD Hepatitis
Immunization
Maternal, Child and Family Health Services
Public Health Laboratory
PH Nursing/Border Health
TB Control & Refugee Health
Vital Records

Emergency Medical Care Committee (EMCC)
Kelly Forman, R.N., Chair/Chief Darrell Jobs, Vice-Chair
c/o Emergency Medical Services
6255 Mission Gorge Road
San Diego, CA 92120
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MISSION STATEMENT

"As advisors to the San Diego County Board of Supervisors, the mission of the Emergency Medical Care Committee is to be an advocate for the community through the development of strategies for continuous improvement of the emergency medical services system."

EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes

Thursday, June 22, 2006

Members Present

Beeson, Travis – American Red Cross
Broyles, R.N., Linda – Emergency Nurses' Association
Forman, R.N., Kelly – Co. Paramedics Agencies' Comm.
Fried, Bruce – Fifth District
Graham, Dan – S.D. Co. Ambulance Association
Green, R.N., Katy – First District
Jobs, Chief Darrell – S.D. Co. Fire Districts' Assoc.
Meadows-Pitt, R.N., Mary – Second District
Richardson, Sgt. Todd – Law Enforcement Agencies
Scott, Chief Mike – S.D. Co. Fire Chiefs' Association

County Staff Present

Angelo, Carmel
Gardina, R.N., Les
Haynes, M.D., Bruce

Recorder

Rupp, Merle

Members Absent

Fisher, Roger – S.D. Co. Paramedics' Association
Norris, R.N., Monica – Base Hospital Nurse Coordinators
Schroeder, Dave – Fourth District
Skoglund, R.N., Patty – Hosp. Assoc. S.D./Imperial Counties

Guests Present

Bull, R.N., Pat – American Red Cross
Haworth, Mike – S.D. Co. Fire Districts' Assoc.
Lee, James – American Medical Response
Wolman, Amy – Pacific Ambulance

Vacant

Binational EMCC
Emergency Physicians' Society
League of California Cities
Military Agencies
S.D. Co. Medical Society
Third District

I. INTRODUCTION/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kelly Forman, R.N., Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Attendees introduced themselves.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION made by Chief Darrell Jobs, Seconded by Bruce Fried, to approve the Minutes of February 23, 2006 as submitted. MOTION carried. (One abstention: Travis Beeson, American Red Cross)

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS/PETITIONS

None.

IV. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Prehospital/Hospital

An overview was presented on the development of policies S-019 (Cardiovascular Advisory Committee, CAC), S-020 (Designation of a Cardiovascular “STEMI” Receiving Center), and S-021 (De-Designation of a Cardiovascular “STEMI” Receiving Center) by Bruce Haynes, M.D., and Les Gardina, R.N., County EMS.

MOTION made by Linda Broyles, R.N., Seconded by Bruce Fried, to approve Policy S-019 as submitted. MOTION carried. (One abstention: Sgt. Todd Richardson, Law Enforcement Agencies)

MOTION made by Linda Broyles, R.N., Seconded by Chief Darrell Jobes, to approve Policy S-020 as submitted. MOTION carried. (One abstention: Sgt. Todd Richardson, Law Enforcement Agencies)

MOTION made by Linda Broyles, R.N., Seconded by Bruce Fried, to approve Policy S-021 as submitted. MOTION carried.

V. EMS STAFF REPORT (Carmel Angelo, Acting EMS Director)

Ms. Angelo will be pulling the interview panel together in the near future and making a decision on how to proceed in interviewing for a permanent EMS Medical Director. Ms. Angelo thanked Dr. Haynes for accepting the position for the last few months and continuing to serve as EMS Interim Medical Director. She also welcomed the opportunity for either the Chair or Co-Chair of EMCC to be a member of that panel and this could be discussed following this meeting.

Ms. Angelo plans to take action within the next couple of months on the EMS Chief position. She would also like to add a R.N. Quality Assurance Specialist to work with the cardiac and stroke systems in the near future.

The County has a contract with TREF (Trauma Research and Education Foundation) to provide trauma services and the CIREN project on highway safety. Notice was received by the County in April, 2006, that the TREF Board of Directors would be terminating that contract with the County. Currently of approximately 14 TREF employees, only two or three are at risk of losing their employment at this time.

VI. EMS MEDICAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Bruce Haynes, M.D.)

An annual inservice is going on at this time with many changes the American Heart Association has made with the ACLS (Advanced Cardiac Life Support) guidelines, particularly in the area of CPR chest compressions and ventilations. The other major change in the treatment guidelines pertains to high-dose nitroglycerine.

County EMS conducted a survey of San Diego County hospitals to ascertain their stroke capacity and the majority of them have policies and procedures in place to be a primary stroke center.

The Off-Load Study continues regarding the amount of time it takes for patients to be off-loaded at hospital emergency rooms. In cooperation with EMOC (Emergency Medical Oversight Committee), a survey has gone out during the last couple of weeks to determine for each individual hospital, how long that turnover of care is taking. The survey will have a total of three weeks of data. Chief Jobs added that there had been meetings between the County, fire chiefs, fire districts and the fire groups are also collecting data. He encouraged Dr. Haynes to call a meeting between EMS and the fire folks to really get a clear picture of the data out there in the community once all data is collected.

Another study being conducted is a Capacity Study to show the number of patients held in the emergency room after they have been admitted. Data has been coming back slowly.

The Institute of Medicine conducted a study on medical errors which led to different changes around the country in the EMS arena. Their report was just released. On the Base Station Physicians' Committee Medical Director's Report for June, there is a web-site listed where you can obtain a free download of the summary of the report along with a fact sheet. They also offer three books which you can purchase on line which summarize hospital-based emergency care, pediatric emergency care and more.

Discussions are continuing regarding the funding and disciplines with EMS licensures at the State level.

In an agreement with the federal government, Tenet Health, who owns Alvarado Hospital, has agreed to divest itself from Alvarado, probably by February, 2007. It is hoped that Tenet will attempt to sell Alvarado Hospital as a general acute care facility. There are apparently a number of interested parties in purchasing Alvarado. Dr. Haynes and Marcy Metz, R.N., County EMS have met with Alvarado Hospital Administration and will continue to meet as deemed necessary. County EMS has done some contingency planning in the event Alvarado does close as a hospital and will continue refining that plan.

VII. SET NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for Thursday, July 27, 2006 at 9:00 a.m., Health Services Complex, Executive Conference Room, 3851 Rosecrans Street, San Diego.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Merle Rupp, Board Secretary,
County EMS

